

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 NIC-01 IO-14

AF-10 DRC-01 /191 W

----- 019706

R 200405Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 1393

INFO /AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0192

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

DA

DOD

CINCEUR

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0305

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD; KUWAIT PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

DOD FOR ISA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, IR, TC,US

SUBJ: ABU DHABI TO PROVIDE MORE SALADINS FOR OMAN; ADDF

CHIEF OF STAFF CRITICAL OF IRANIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

REF: ABU DHABI 0090 (NOTAL)

1. DURING BRIEF EXCHANGE MARCH 18 WITH SHAIKH FAISAL AL-QASSIMI, CHIEF OF STAFF OF ADDF, SUBJECT OF 12 SALADINS ARMORED CARS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM JORDAN TO ADDF WAS DISCUSSED. FAISAL SEEMED PLEASED THAT USG HAD BEEN WILLING HOLD SS GARFIELD

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AT AQABA TO LOAD SALADINS, BUT HE HAD HIS USUAL CAUSTIC COMMENT ABOUT

USG MIL POLICY IN AREA: QUOTE SPEED OF SALADIN SHIPMENT ONLY PROVES THAT USG UNSURPASSED IN ACTION WHEN MATTER AT HAND DEEMED TO BE IN ITS

OWN INTEREST UNQUOTE.

2. CHARGE CASUALLY ASKED FAISAL WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO WITH 12 SALADINS ACQUIRED FROM JORDAN, SINCE ADDF NOW FOCUSING ON MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY FOR ARMORED FORCES, NAMELY LIGHT TANKS TO REPLACE ITS ARMORED CARS. RECALLING THAT SHAIKH ZAYID HAD RECENTLY AUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF 6 SALADINS TO OMAN, FAISAL STATED THAT PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR TRANSFERRING SIX OF JORDANIAN SALADINS TO SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES (SAF). THIS IS FIRST EMB HAD HEARD THAT ADDITIONAL SALADIN SHIPMENT WOULD BE OFFERED TO OMAN BY AD AS MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN KIND.

3. TOOK OCCASION TO ASK FAISAL WHAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN UAEG THOUGHT ABOUT IRANIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN DHOFAR WAR. FAISAL ADMITTED THAT POLITICALLY IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT WAS WORRISOME FACTOR FOR PENINSULA'S CONSERVATIVE REGIMES, ESPECIALLY UAE. PRESENCE OF IRANIAN MILITARY UNITS IN OMAN, PARTICULARLY IN DHOFAR, WILL ONLY INCREASE MISCHIEF-MAKING POTENTIAL OF IRAQIS IN PDRY.

4. ON STRICTLY MILITARY PLANE, HOWEVER, FAISAL THOUGHT GOI SHOULD HAVE CONFINED ITS HELP TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRA-STRUCTURE PROJECTS AND TO SUPPLY OF SOME MILITARY HARDWARE, POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE LIMITED NUMBER ADVISORS. IT IMPORTANT, HE FELT, THAT IRANIAN HELP BE MADE MORE VISIBLE TO CITIZENS OF OMAN. THIS NOT THE CASE WITH EMPLOYMENT OF COMBAT UNITS IN DHOFAR, WHICH OF NO MATERIAL BENEFIT OR CONCERN TO AVERAGE OMANI CITIZEN. FAISAL COMMENTED THAT IF SHAH FELT IT NECESSARY FROM STANDPOINT HIS OWN SECURITY TO SEND TROOPS, THEN COMMITMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MASSIVE ENOUGH TO LIQUIDATE DHOFAR REBELLION IN SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE. FAISAL SAID HE AND OTHERS IN UAEG FEARFUL THAT SHAH AND IRANIAN MILITARY MAY BE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT ENDING DHOFAR REBELLION THAN ESTABLISHING MORE OR LESS PERMANENT BRIDGEHEAD IN PENINSULA, AS WELL AS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY TO TEST ITS COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS. IF GOI OVERPLAYS ITS HAND, HE FEARS THAT POTENTIALLY BENEFICIAL EFFECT TO BE DERIVED FROM IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO OMAN, COULD UTIMATELY PROVE DESTABILIZING TO

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SECURITY OF AREA.
GRIFFIN

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NNN

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